GERARD JONES EDUARDO BARRETO

2

MARTIAN Manhunter

american secrets

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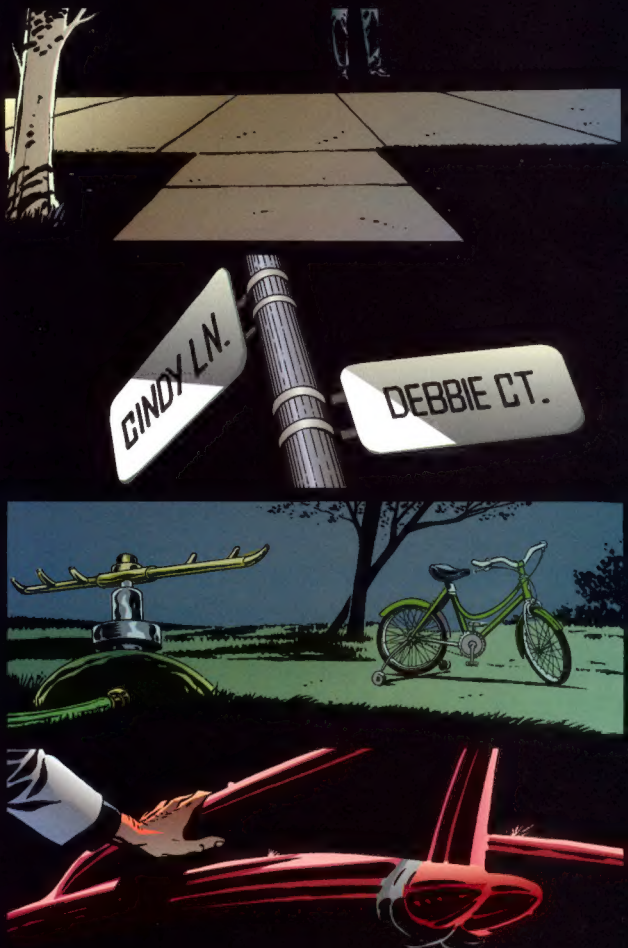
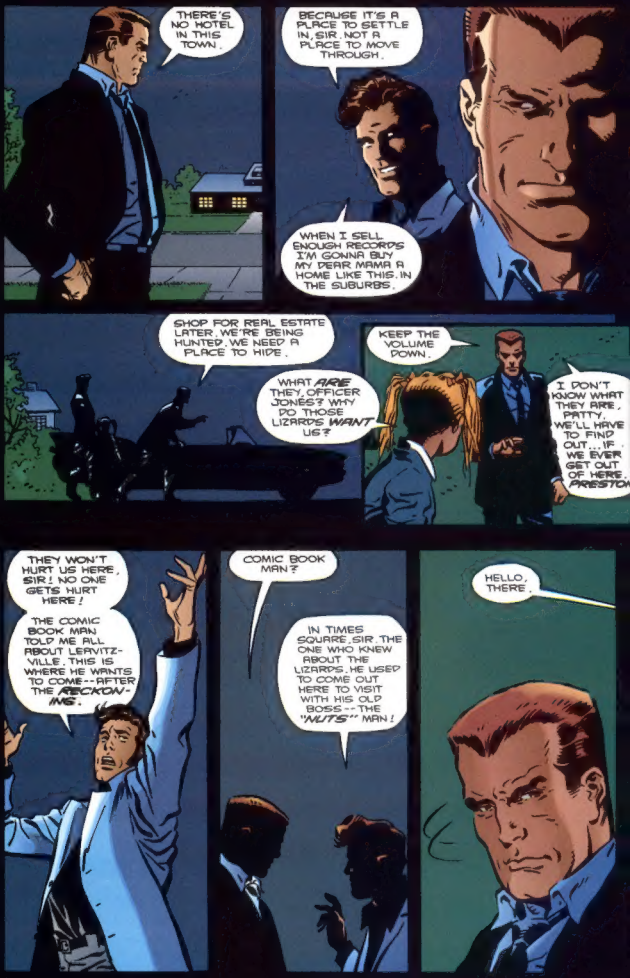
LITTLE GIANT SUPERETTE
NIKKI'S ICE
GROUND ROUND
19¢ lb
CLEANING SERVICE
VILLAGE
•NOW SHOWING•
THE BRAIN EATERS
• AND •
I MARRIED A MONSTER


CINDY LN.
DEBBIE CT.

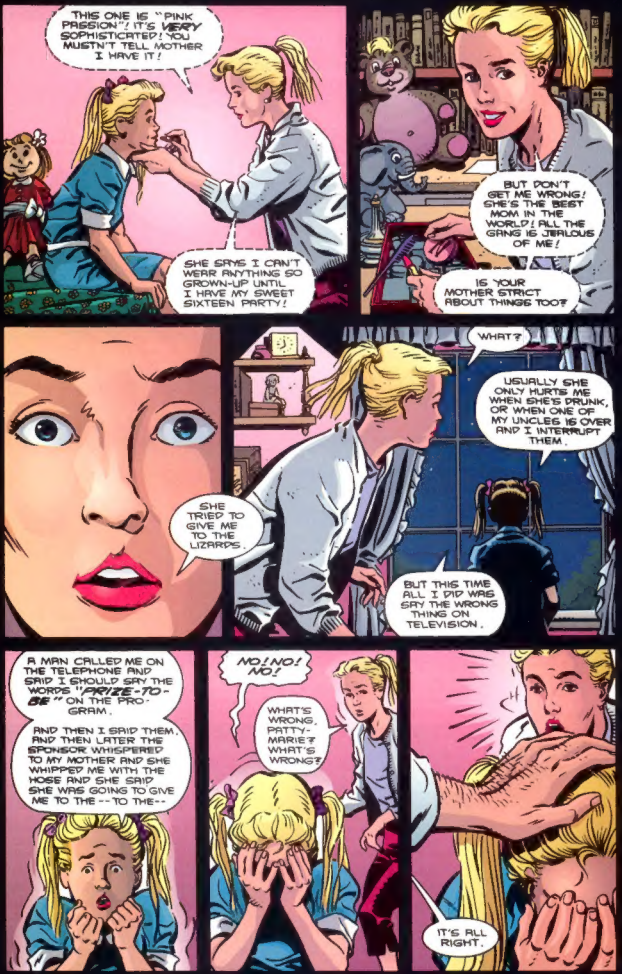
LAW
MOW
REP
LEAVITZVILLE.
SUBURBS.
HEAVEN.


THERE'S NO MOTEL IN THIS TOWN.
BECAUSE IT'S A PLACE TO SETTLE IN, SIR. NOT A PLACE TO MOVE THROUGH.
WHEN I SELL ENOUGH RECORDS I'M GONNA BUY MY DEAR MAMA A HOME LIKE THIS, IN THE SUBURBS.
SHOP FOR REAL ESTATE LATER. WE'RE BEING HUNTED. WE NEED A PLACE TO HIDE.
WHAT ARE THEY, OFFICER JONES? WHY DO THOSE LIZARDS WANT US?
KEEP THE VOLUME DOWN.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY ARE, PATTY. WE'LL HAVE TO FIND OUT. IF WE EVER GET OUT OF HERE ALIVE!
THEY WON'T HURT US HERE, SIR! NO ONE GETS HURT HERE!
THE COMIC BOOK MAN TOLD ME ALL ABOUT LEAVITZVILLE. THIS IS WHERE HE WANTS TO COME--AFTER THE RECKONING.
COMIC BOOK MAN?
IN TIMES SQUARE, SIR. THE ONE WHO KNEW ABOUT THE LIZARDS. HE USED TO COME OUT HERE TO VISIT WITH HIS OLD BOSS--THE "NUTS" MAN!
HELLO, THERE.

CAN WE GIVE YOU FOLKS A HAND?
NO, WE--
WE REALLY NEED A PLACE TO STAY, SIR. WE REALLY DO!
OH, GOSH, DADDY! IT'S PERKINS PRESTON! THE SINGER!
IS THAT SO? WELL. WELL.
AND ISN'T THIS LITTLE PATTY MARIE? WHY, WE SAW YOU ON THE BIG QUESTION, DARLING!
WHATEVER BRINGS YOU HERE SO LATE AT NIGHT?
WE...
WE'LL EXPLAIN INSIDE.
WHICH SHOULD GIVE ME A COUPLE OF MINUTES TO MAKE SOMETHING UP.

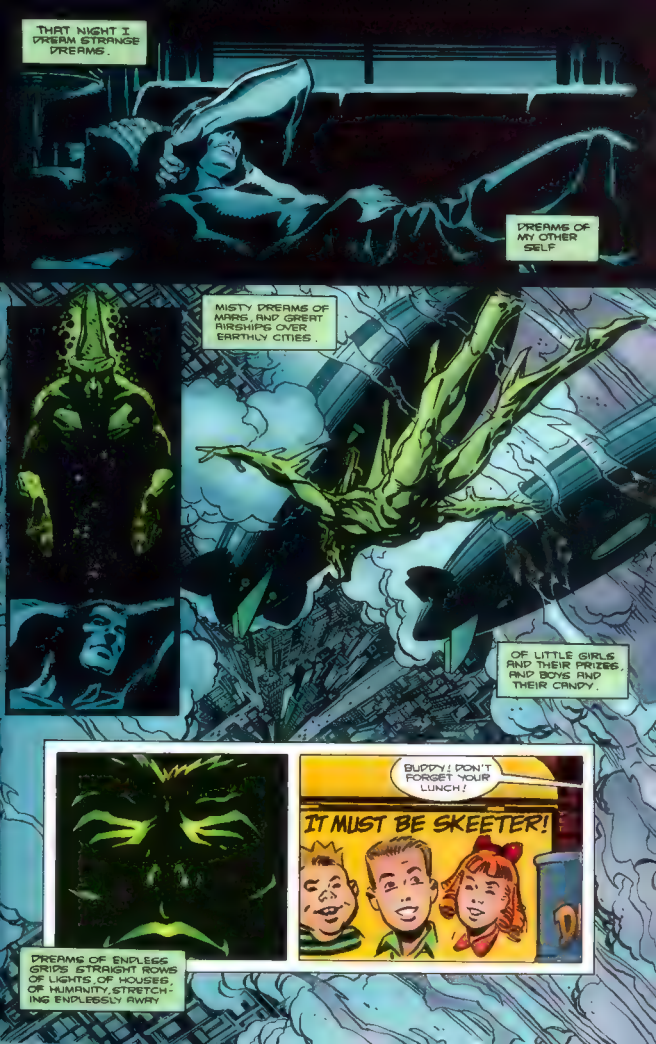
...THREATENED BY MOBSTERS?
THIS HAPPENS MORE OFTEN THAN YOU'D THINK. THESE EXTORTION GANGS THREATEN POPULAR PERSONALITIES TO BLEED THEIR PRODUCERS.
I WAS ABOUT TO MOVE PERKINS AND PATTY TO A SAFE-HOUSE IN THE ROCKIES WHEN SOMEONE TRIED TO HIT THEM.
"HIT"? YOU DON'T MEAN...
UH-HUH. YOU HEARD OF A MAN CALLED MR. GIOCONDA?
HE'S ONE OF THOSE LAS VEGAS GANGSTERS, ISN'T HE?
THANKS FOR THE COFFEE, MRS. ANDERSON.
WHY, IT'S EASY...WITH INSTANT COFFEE AND OUR AUTOMATIC COFFEE POT!
I CAN WHIP UP ANYTHING IN MOMENTS IN MY NEW ALL-ELECTRIC KITCHEN!
SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

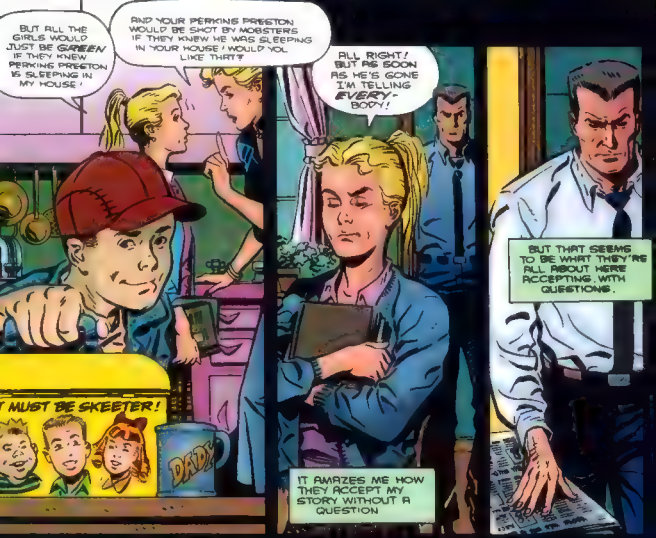
YEAH?
I GUESS THIS PLACE IS NEW FOR YOU.
EVERYTHING'S NEW IN LERVITZVILLE, DETECTIVE. IT'S A PLACE FOR NEW STARTS.
MY NEW BLENDER HAS TWELVE DIFFERENT SPEEDS.
WE CAME HERE FOR THE CHILDREN, TO ESCAPE THE BAD INFLUENCES OF THE CITY. THE DELINQUENTS, THE BEER JOINTS, THE FILTH ON THE NEWSSTANDS...
DON'T YOU THINK THE CHILDREN WOULD LOVE A MILKSHAKE? ALL I NEED IS ICE MILK AND FROZEN STRAWBERRIES!
YOU KNOW A MAGAZINE CALLED "MUTS"? I HEARD THE MAN WHO RUNS IT LIVES IN THIS TOWN.
IT'S NOT THE SORT OF PUBLICATION I'D LIKE IN MY HOME. IT WOULDN'T SURPRISE ME IF IT'S SUBVERSIVE.
BUT THE PUBLISHER, MR. KEENE, IS WELCOME TO MOVE HERE. PEOPLE OF ALL TYPES, ALL BACKGROUNDS, AND ALL CREEPS ARE WELCOME IN LERVITZVILLE.
AS LONG AS THEY FIT IN.
VREEEE
WHO KNOWS? LERVITZVILLE MIGHT MAKE A GOOD CITIZEN OF THIS MR. KEENE. IT'S A PLACE TO START OVER, TO BE REMADE.


THIS ONE IS "PINK PASSION"! IT'S VERY SOPHISTICATED! YOU MUSTN'T TELL MOTHER I HAVE IT!
SHE SAYS I CAN'T WEAR ANYTHING SO GROWN-UP UNTIL I HAVE MY SWEET SIXTEEN PARTY!
BUT DON'T GET ME WRONG! SHE'S THE BEST MOM IN THE WORLD! ALL THE GANG IS JEALOUS OF ME!
IS YOUR MOTHER STRICT ABOUT THINGS TOO?
WHAT?
USUALLY SHE ONLY HURTS ME WHEN SHE'S DRUNK, OR WHEN ONE OF MY UNCLES IS OVER AND I INTERRUPT THEM.
BUT THIS TIME ALL I DID WAS SAY THE WRONG THING ON TELEVISION.
SHE TRIED TO GIVE ME TO THE LIZARDS.
A MAN CALLED ME ON THE TELEPHONE AND SAID I SHOULD SAY THE WORDS "PRIZE-TO-BE" ON THE PROGRAM.
AND THEN I SAID THEM. AND THEN LATER THE SPONSOR WHISPERED TO MY MOTHER AND SHE WHIPPED ME WITH THE HOSE AND SHE SAID SHE WAS GOING TO GIVE ME TO THE -- TO THE--
NO! NO! NO!
WHAT'S WRONG, PATTY-MARIE? WHAT'S WRONG?
IT'S ALL RIGHT.

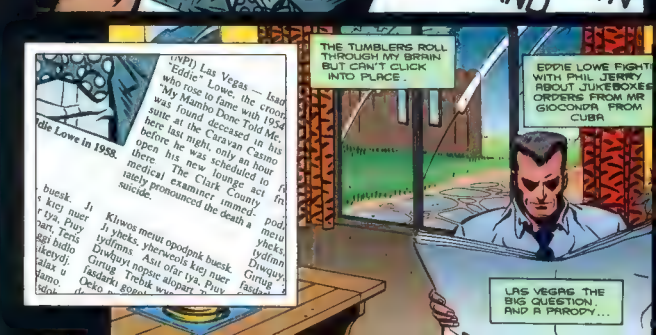
YOUR MOTHER'S MADE MILK SHAKES, SISSY. WIPE THE PINK PASSION OFF YOUR MOUTH AND JOIN HER
Y-YES, SIR.
"PRIZE-TO-BE."
MOVIELAND MONSTERS
NO! I DON'T WANT TO SEE THAT!
YOU DON'T LIKE MONSTERS? MONSTERS ARE NEAT! BUT DAD DOESN'T LIKE ME LOOKIN' AT 'EM!
C'MON, BUDDY! AIN'T YA GOT SOME-THIN' ELSE TO SHOW ME THERE?
I GOT ALL KINDS O' SECRET STUFF! YOU WANT SOME CANDY?
OH, BOY! I'M ONE HUNGRY MAN!
THANKEE, LI'L FELLA!
HAVE ALL YOU WANT IT TASTES CRUMMY.
THAT WEIRD MR. KEENE GIVES IT OUT TO ALL THE KIDS

"BETO"?
IT'S MADE FROM SUGAR-BEETS, MR KEENE SAYS BLECCCHHH!
I GOT A COUSIN WHO SHARE-CROPS SUGAR BEETS DOWN IN MISS'SSIPPI.
I USED TO LIKE GOIN' DOWN THERE AND LISTEN-IN' TO THE COLORED FOLKS SING WHEN THEY WORKED
COLORED PEOPLE? YOU'VE BEEN COLORED PEOPLE?
WHAT ARE THEY LIKE?
BUDDY! IT ISN'T POLITE TO DISCUSS SUCH THINGS
NOW GO DRINK MILK SHAKES WITH YOUR SISTER
Y-YES, MOM
WELL THEY'RE... THEY'RE... THEY'RE...
COLORED!
HMMM?
FUNNY FOLKS HERE
YEAH. FUNNY.


THAT NIGHT I DREAM STRANGE DREAMS.
DREAMS OF MY OTHER SELF
MISTY DREAMS OF MARS, AND GREAT AIRSHIPS OVER EARTHLY CITIES.
OF LITTLE GIRLS AND THEIR PRIZES, AND BOYS AND THEIR CANDY.
DREAMS OF ENDLESS GRIDS STRAIGHT ROWS OF LIGHTS OF HOUSES, OF HUMANITY, STRETCHING ENDLESSLY AWAY
BUDDY! DON'T FORGET YOUR LUNCH!
IT MUST BE SKEETER!


BUT ALL THE GIRLS WOULD JUST BE GREEN IF THEY KNEW PERKINS PRESTON IS SLEEPING IN MY HOUSE!
AND YOUR PERKINS PRESTON WOULD BE SHOT BY MOBSTERS IF THEY KNEW HE WAS SLEEPING IN YOUR HOUSE! WOULD YOU LIKE THAT?
ALL RIGHT! BUT AS SOON AS HE'S GONE I'M TELLING EVERY-BODY!
BUT THAT SEEMS TO BE WHAT THEY'RE ALL ABOUT HERE ACCEPTING WITH QUESTIONS.
IT AMAZES ME HOW THEY ACCEPT MY STORY WITHOUT A QUESTION
MUST BE SKEETER!
DADDY

SINGER EDDIE LOWE DIES BY OWN HAND

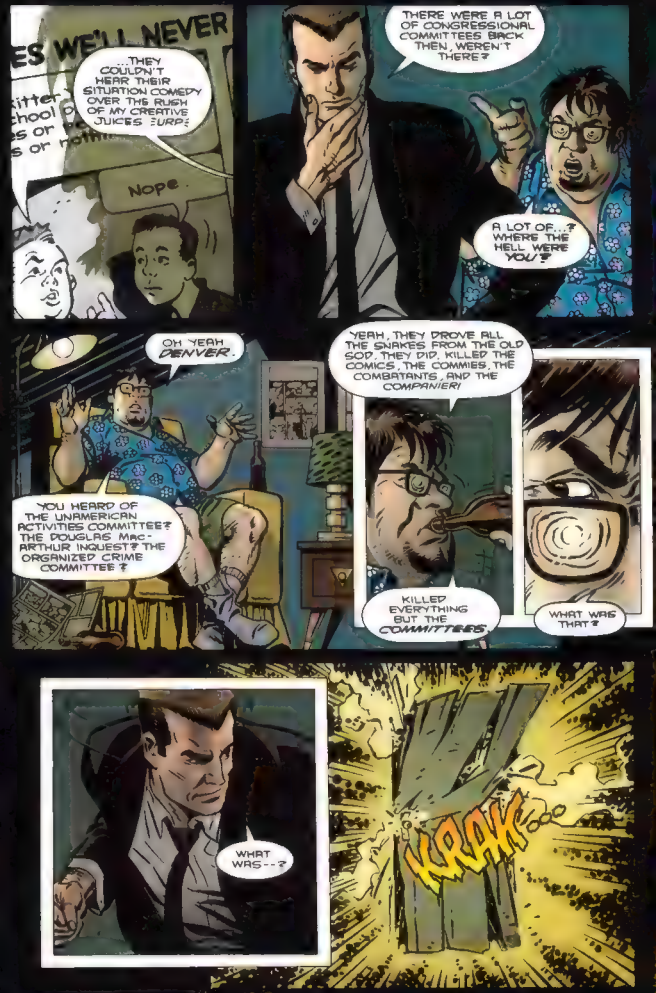

(NPI) Las Vegas — Isad
"Eddie" Lowe, the croon
who rose to fame with 1954
"My Mambo Done Told Me.
was found deceased in his
suite at the Caravan Casino
here last night, only an hour
before his new lounge act fr
open his new lounge act fr
there. The Clark County
medical examiner immed
lately pronounced the death a
suicide.
Eddie Lowe in 1958.
THE TUMBLERS ROLL THROUGH MY BRAIN BUT CAN'T CLICK INTO PLACE.
EDDIE LOWE FIGHT WITH PHIL JERRY ABOUT JUKEBOXES ORDERS FROM MR GIOCONDA FROM CUBA
LAS VEGAS THE BIG QUESTION... AND A PARODY...

I HAVE TO CHECK IN WITH MY CONTRACT-MAN, MRS ANDERSON. PLEASE DON'T LET PERKINS OR PATTY MARIE LEAVE THE HOUSE
OH . DEAR! BUT WHAT IF . WHAT IF SOMEONE ASKS ME WHO YOU ARE?
DON'T WORRY, MRS ANDERSON.
I'LL MAKE SURE THEY DON'T SEE ME
THE PHONE BOOK GAVE ME THE ADDRESS ...
. BUT I COULD HAVE FOUND THE PLACE WITHOUT IT. THE SCREAM OF JAZZ ON THE SILENT BLOCK WAS LIKE BLOOD IN THE SNOW
POETRIE & E-Z
KOMMEDIE & HARD
WHAT?

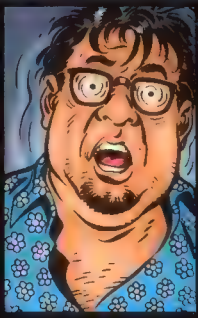
MELVIN KEENE? DETECTIVE JOHN JONES.
POLICE..?
DENVER POLICE?! SO WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME, WHO'S NEVER BEEN WEST OF PISCATAWAY, HUH?
I HAVE SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR MAGAZINE--
OKAY, ONCE-- ONCE-- I WENT TO PENNSYLVANIA .IT WAS AN ACCIDENT. I SHOULD BE ARRESTED FOR THIS?
THERE WAS A MURDER ON "THE BIG QUESTION," "NUTS" MAGAZINE SATIRIZED THAT--
MURDER SCHMURDER THE ONLY THING I EVER MURDERED WAS A GOOD JOKE. BURRRRRP. AH!!
YOUR PARODY USED THE CATEGORY "HORTICULTURE," THE DAY OF THE MURDER.
KEENE.
WHAT'S THIS?
SCENES WE'LL NEVER SEE: FROM THAT "WHOLESOME" MUST YOU BE SKITTER?
Hey, Skitter. You never cut school or sneak smokes or peek up girls' skirts or nothin', do ya?
Nope.
But every normal American kid cuts school and sneaks smokes and peeks up girls' skirts! What's your forshtinkener problem?
That's easy, Fatty!
I'm really an alien from outer space!
PREDICTION TO 8!!

YOU BE SKITTER?
I'm really an alien from outer space!
ZORRBETE
IT'S CRAP. THAT'S WHAT IT IS!
I'M PUBLISHING A HUMOR MAGAZINE AND THIS IS WHAT MY ARTISTS BRING! WHAT'S FUNNY ABOUT A TV KID BEING A SPACE MONSTER?
WELL? YOU TELL ME WHAT'S FUNNY!
YOU HAD ANOTHER ARTIST... WHO DREW LIZARDS.
THAT NUT! LIZARDS!
I TOLD HIM WHEN LIZARDS MAKE ENOUGH MONEY TO BUY MAGAZINES, THEN WE'LL PUBLISH LIZARDS!
YOU KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT THE LIZARDS, KEENE
OKAY.
YOU FOUND ME OUT.

MY GRAN'DADDY ON MY MAMA'S SIDE WAS AN IGUANA. I'VE SPENT MY LIFE TRYING TO RUB OUT THE SHAME.
:BREE-AWP!:
DON'T LIKE TO BE SERIOUS, DO YOU KEENE?
SERIOUS, SCHMERIOUS
ONCE
ONCE I WAS SERIOUS
ABOUT SCIENCE FICTION STORIES, CRIME STORIES. THEY TOOK ME TO A SENATE COMMITTEE FOR SUCH SERIOUS
THEY DRAGGED ME THROUGH THE MUD, THEY CUT OFF MY HEAD
THEIR PINK-TINTED HEAD-SHRINKERS CALLED ME A CAPITALIST PIMP--
:BRRRUPP:
--AND THEIR FLAG-FLYING PREACHERS CALLED ME A RED
THEY WANTED ME QUIET AND THEY GOT IT
WHO?
WHO WANTED YOU QUIET KEENE?
MY NEIGHBORS, MAYBE!


...THEY COULDN'T HEAR THEIR SITUATION COMEDY OVER THE RUSH OF MY CREATIVE JUICES, EURPS
NOPE.
THERE WERE A LOT OF CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES BACK THEN, WEREN'T THERE?
A LOT OF...? WHERE THE HELL WERE YOU?
OH YEAH, DENVER.
YOU HEARD OF THE UNAMERICAN ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE? THE DOUGLAS MACARTHUR INQUEST? THE ORGANIZED CRIME COMMITTEE?
YEAH, THEY DROVE ALL THE SNAKES FROM THE OLD SOD! THEY DID, KILLED THE COMICS, THE COMMIES, THE COMBATANTS, AND THE COMPANIERI
KILLED EVERYTHING BUT THE COMMITTEES.
WHAT WAS THAT?
WHAT WAS--?
KRAK

KOOM!



SRAWL!
THUD!
SCREEEE!

WHAT'S THE MATTER, SONNY? DID YOUR DOG RUN AWAY?
HE'S IN THERE, MR. ANDERSON! HE'S IN THERE!
BRACK!
SNAP!

WELL, HELLO THERE!
DETECTIVE JONES?
KLIK!
YES?

GHHHHH

VROOOM

SPLAT!

OH, MY LORD! OH, MY LORD! I KILLED HIM! I KILLED HIM!

IT'S OKAY, KID. HE WASN'T HUMAN ANY-WAY.

HE WASN'T?

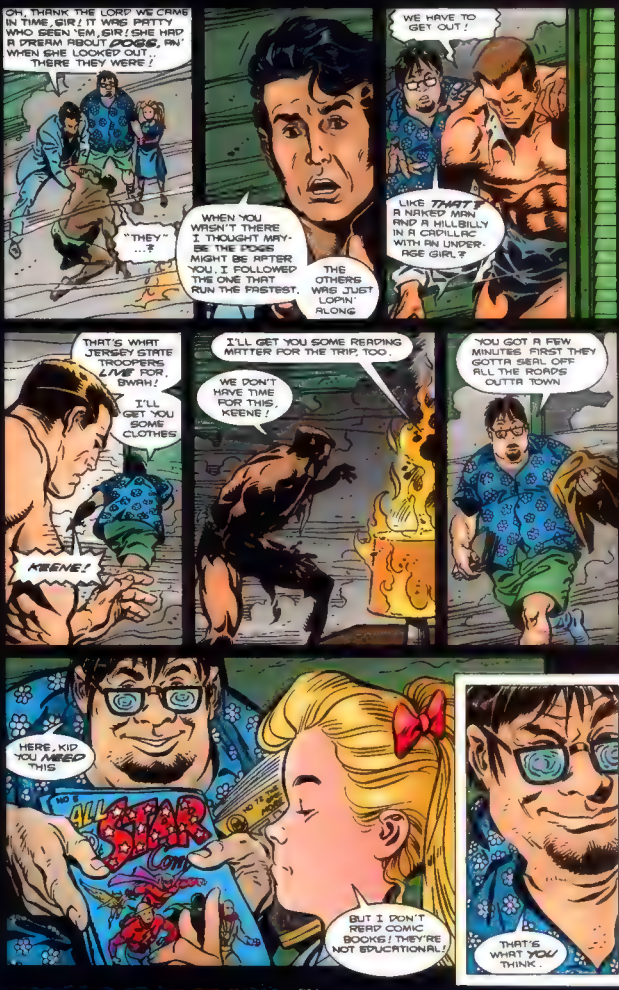
WHAT WAS HE?

INSURANCE SALESMAN.

KEEEEENE...

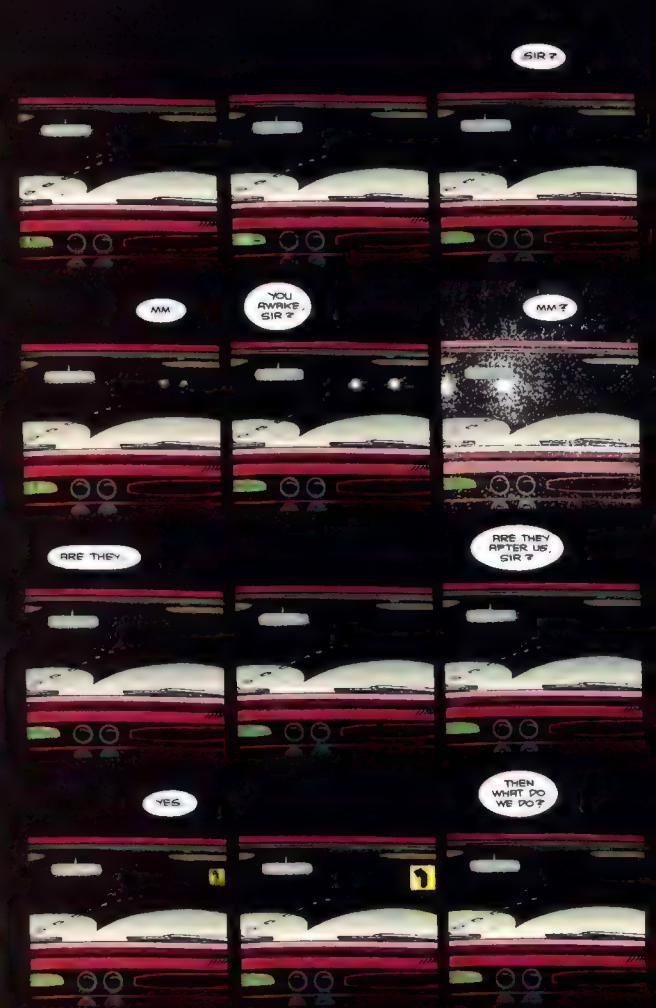
WHAT... IS THIS ABOUT?

DETECTIVE JONES!


OH, THANK THE LORD WE CAME IN TIME, SIR! IT WAS PATTY WHO SEEN 'EM, SIR! SHE HAD A DREAM ABOUT DOGS, AN' WHEN SHE LOOKED OUT.. THERE THEY WERE!
"THEY"...?
WHEN YOU WASN'T THERE I THOUGHT MAYBE THE DOGS MIGHT BE AFTER YOU. I FOLLOWED THE ONE THAT RUN THE FASTEST.
THE OTHERS WAS JUST LOPIN' ALONG
WE HAVE TO GET OUT!
LIKE THAT? A NAKED MAN AND A HILLBILLY IN A CADILLAC WITH AN UNDERAGE GIRL?
THAT'S WHAT JERSEY STATE TROOPERS LIVE FOR, WAH!
I'LL GET YOU SOME CLOTHES
KEENE!
I'LL GET YOU SOME READING MATTER FOR THE TRIP, TOO.
WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS, KEENE!
YOU GOT A FEW MINUTES. FIRST THEY GOTTA SEAL OFF ALL THE ROADS OUTTA TOWN.
HERE, KID. YOU MIGHT LIKE THIS
ALL STAR COMICS
BUT I DON'T READ COMIC BOOKS! THEY'RE NOT EDUCATIONAL!
THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK.

JUST GO TO THE CAR! NOW!
YES, SIR
MONSTER DOGS, MEN WITH FIRE... AND YOU STAND HERE JOKING... GIVING COMICS... WHAT'S THIS ABOUT, KEENE?!
IT'S ABOUT ORCHARDS.
ONE DAY THIS WAS AN ORCHARD. THEY BULL-DOZED IT OVERNIGHT. A MONTH LATER IT WAS LEAVITZVILLE.
YOU CAN BULLDOZE ANY-THING WITH A BIG ENOUGH BLADE, DETECTIVE JONES.
DETECTIVE JONES? SIR?
THEY'RE COMING, SIR. STATION WAGONS!

I DIDN'T THINK THERE WERE ANY OF YOUR KIND LEFT
YOU'RE PLAYING WITH THE RULES, KEENE!
REMEMBER OUR DEAL, KEENE! REMEMBER OUR DEAL!
DON'T WORRY, KID I DIDN'T TELL THEM A THING NOT A THING
NOW, COME ON HELP ME SAVE MY ART-BOARDS
AND I'LL GIVE YOU SOME CANDY


SIR?
MM
YOU AWAKE, SIR?
MM?
ARE THEY
ARE THEY AFTER US, SIR?
YES.
THEN WHAT DO WE DO?

WE LEARN WHO THEY ARE
AND WE GO AFTER THEM
SIR?
MM
WHAT ARE YOU, SIR?
DON'T ASK ME THAT
JUST DRIVE

SO WHADDA WE GOT COMIN', EH?

A BIG LOAD INTO MIAMI, MR. G. STRAIGHT FROM IBEREZ, THROUGH PUNTA ALEGRE.

PUTA ALEGRE'S MORE LIKE IT. *GET* IT? THAT'S CUBA TO *ME*, YOU KNOW?

YOU MISSING CUBA, SAMMY? I CAN ARRANGE TO SEND YOU BACK.

NAW, NAW, NAW, MR G JUST A *JOKE*. I CAN'T TAKE CUBA NO MORE. I MEAN, AS IF THE *COMMIES* WASN'T BAD ENOUGH.

I'M *ON*, HERE!

IT MUST BE SKEETER! STARRING JOHN HUBERT, DORIS GLADDEN, SHELLY KELLY...

HEY! FELLAS! CAN IT!

...AND WHITEY BRIGHT AS THE SKEETER!

WE SHOT THIS BABY IN THREE DAYS, DOLLS, NO THANKS TO HUBERT. WHAT A *BEWDER* HE WAS ON!

I TELL YOU GIRLS, YOU DON'T KNOW HOW LUCKY YOU WERE TO GET OUT OF SHOW BUSINESS! IF I COULD--

WE INTERRUPT THIS PROGRAM FOR THE FOLLOWING SPECIAL BULLETIN.

WHAT *IS* THIS?! THEY CAN'T *DO* THIS TO ME! WITHOUT ME THIS NETWORK WOULD BE *NOTHING* TUESDAY NIGHTS!

THE F.B.I. REQUESTS ALL CITIZENS TO BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THE MURDERER OF A LEAVITZ-VILLE INSURANCE AGENT.

SHUT *UP* WHITEY! WE *NEED* THESE BULLETINS!

HE HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS DENVER DETECTIVE JOHN JONES, AND HE APPEARS TO BE HOLDING AS HOSTAGES...

YOU NEED *ME*, TOO. DON'T LET YOUR UGLY BOSSES *FORGET* THAT.

...HILLBILLY SINGER PERKINS PRESTON AND CHILD ACTRESS PATTY MARIE.

MR. G! WE GOT A *SITUATION* IN THE LOBBY. SOME CRAZY OLD COOT SAYS HE GOT TO *SEE* YOU! AN' HE SAYS HE CAN GIVE US...

SOUVEN GIFTS

SINO

CASINO GAMBLING

25¢ ROULETTE

FREE PARKING

EDUARDO BARRETO '92

...PERKINS PRESTON AND PATTY MARIE!

YES MA'AMS, AND YES SUHS! THIS VERY CASINO MAY HIRE AS ITS VERY ENTUH-TAINUHS THESE TWO JUSTLY FAMOUS AH-TISTS, FRESHLY SNATCHED FROM THE VERY JAWS OF DEATH..

...IF AH MAY ONLY BE ALLOWED A DISCUSSION WITH THE PROPRIE-TOR OF THIS ESTABLISHMENT!

CIGARETTES

YOU SEEM TO BE UNDER A MISAPPREHENSION...UH ...COLONEL.

MR. GIOCONDA IS ONLY A SILENT PARTNER IN THIS BUSINESS

WELL, THAT'S MY KIND OF PARTNER, SUH! PUT ME IN A ROOM WITH ANOTHER WINDBAG AND I DON'T RIGHTLY KNOW IF EVEN AH COULD ENDURE IT!

SSST. MR. G WANTS THESE PEOPLE. NO SCREW-UPS.

TAKE THE LOON UP, IF THAT'S WHAT HE WANTS.

WELL NOW! LOOKS AS THOUGH THE COLONEL'S ALREADY PLACED YOU IN YOUR FUHST ENGAGEMENT!

WITH ALL THESE DRUNKEN OLD PEOPLE HERE, SIR? I'LL NEVER SING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS!

WITHOUT COOPERATION, YOUNG MAN, YOU MAY NOT LIVE TO WRESTLE WITH THAT DILEMMA!

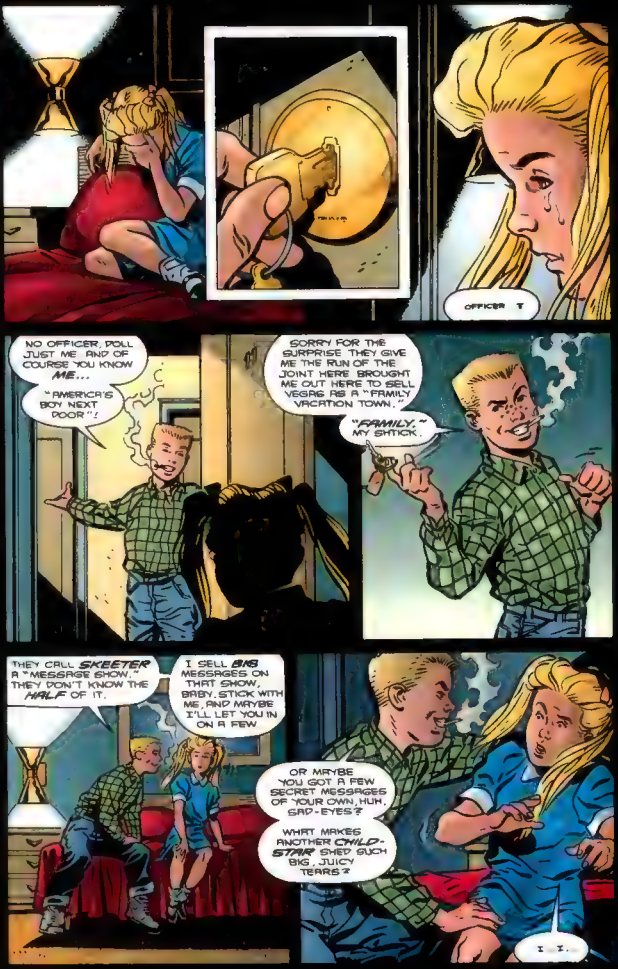
NOW TELL THE DESK CLUHK THAT MR. GIOCONDA HAS REQUESTED ROOMS FOR BOTH YOU AND MISS PATTY.

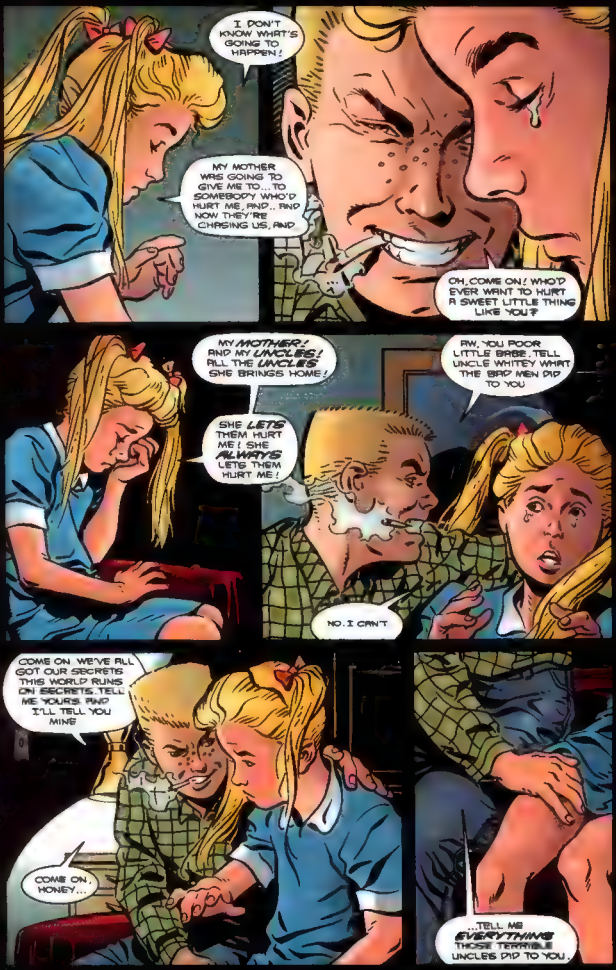
ROOMS TOO?

YOU'RE A FUNNY GUY, COLONEL. GOT A WAY O' TALKING YOUR WAY INTO ANYTHING, AIN'T YOU?

AH NEED NO TALK, SUH, WHEN AH HAVE TWO FINE AHTISTS AND A SU-PUHB PUBLICITY STUNT!

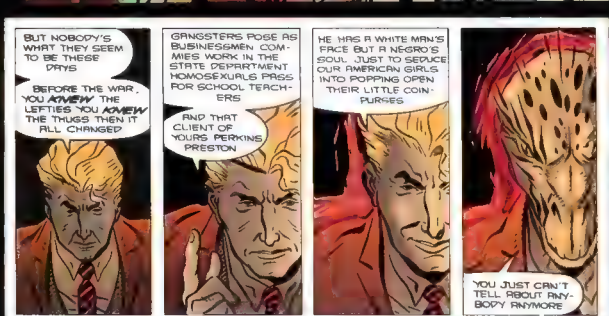
"PUBLICITY STUNT." THAT'S ALL IT WHAT ABOUT THIS JONES? THIS MURDER?
THINGS GO WRONG, MISTAH GROONER. SURELY YOU KNOW THAT.
JUST AS AH KNOW YOU HAVE A GREAT INTEREST IN MAH CLIENTS. AH KNOW HOW THE JUKEBOX BUSINESS WUHKS, SUH AND AH KNOW YOU HAVE ORDUHS ..
FROM CUBA.
PEOPLE WHO KNOW THINGS COLONEL
I GOT WHERE I AM 'CAUSE I KNOW HOW TO TURN A PROBLEM INTO A HELP.
THEY CAN BE A BIG PROBLEM; OR THEY CAN BE A BIG HELP.
"COURSE, WE'LL HAVE TO FIND OUT WHAT "YOU KNOW. EVERYTHING.
FROM THERE WE'LL SEE WHAT KINDA HELP YOU CAN BE. EH?
WE DON'T BOTHER YOU AND YOUR CLIENTS. WE CALL OFF OUR HUNT FOR THIS JONES, EVEN
YOU SIT QUIET WE'LL TALK


OFFICER T
NO OFFICER, DOLL JUST ME AND OF COURSE YOU KNOW ME...
"AMERICA'S BOY NEXT DOOR"!
SORRY FOR THE SURPRISE THEY GIVE ME THE RUN OF THE JOINT HERE BROUGHT ME OUT HERE TO SELL VEGAS AS A "FAMILY VACATION TOWN."
"FAMILY." MY SHTICK.
THEY CALL SKEETER A "MESSAGE SHOW." THEY DON'T KNOW THE HALF OF IT.
I SELL BIG MESSAGES ON THAT SHOW, BABY. STICK WITH ME, AND MAYBE I'LL LET YOU IN ON A FEW
OR MAYBE YOU GOT A FEW SECRET MESSAGES OF YOUR OWN, HUH, SAD-EYES?
WHAT MAKES ANOTHER CHILD-STAR SHED SUCH BIG, JUICY TEARS?
I... I...

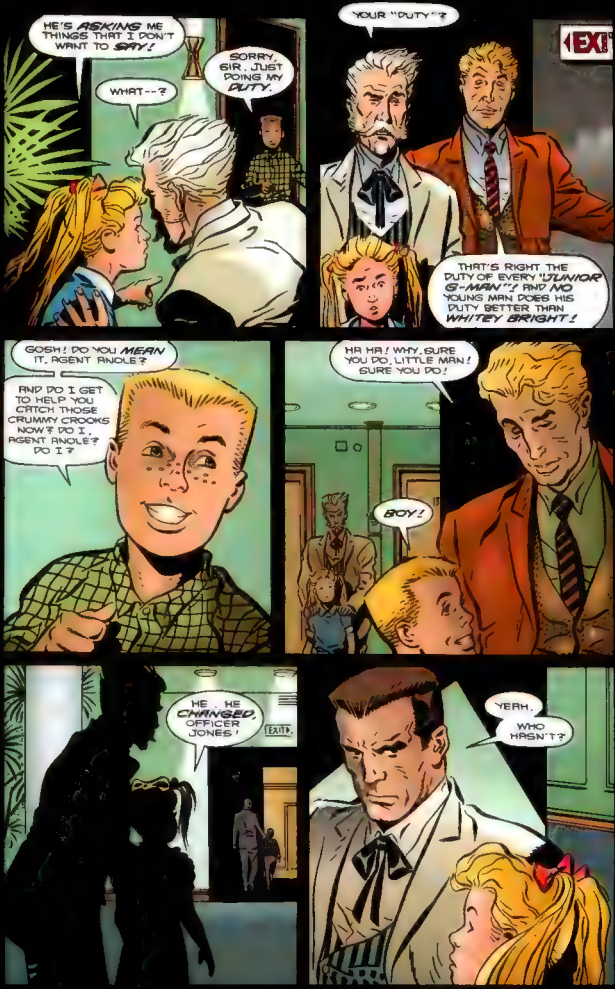

I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN!
MY MOTHER WAS GOING TO GIVE ME TO... TO SOMEBODY WHO'D HURT ME, AND.. AND NOW THEY'RE CHASING US, AND
OH, COME ON! WHO'D EVER WANT TO HURT A SWEET LITTLE THING LIKE YOU?
MY MOTHER! AND MY UNCLES! ALL THE UNCLES SHE BRINGS HOME!
SHE LETS THEM HURT ME! SHE ALWAYS LETS THEM HURT ME!
AW, YOU POOR LITTLE BABE. TELL UNCLE WHITEY WHAT THE BAD MEN DID TO YOU
NO. I CAN'T
COME ON. WE'VE ALL GOT OUR SECRETS. THIS WORLD RUNS ON SECRETS. TELL ME YOURS AND I'LL TELL YOU MINE
COME ON, HONEY...
..TELL ME EVERYTHING THOSE TERRIBLE UNCLES DID TO YOU.

THAT LOOKS LIKE A CRAFT FROM ANOTHER WORLD! MAYBE IT HAS THE ANSWERS WE NEED!
"THAT LOOKS LIKE A CRAFT FROM ANOTHER WORLD! MAYBE IT HAS THE ANSWERS WE NEED!"
"YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN, FLASH! DR. MID-NITE, HURL A BLACK-OUT BOMB AND SEE IF YOU CAN...CAN...CRUSE THAT SHIP TO CRASH!"
TOTAL DARKNESS, COMING UP! FOLLOW ME, BOYS!
"TOTAL DARK-NESS, COMING UP! FOLLOW ME, BOYS!" LORDY!
"LOOK! THE OCCU... OCCUPANTS HAVE BEEN THROWN CLEAR! THEY SEEM TO BE..."
LIZARD MEN!

COLONEL?
WE SAW YOU TALKING TO SAM GIOCONDA. WE MAY NEED YOU TO HELP WITH AN INVESTIGATION
"WE"?
INSPECTOR ANOLE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WE BELIEVE GIOCONDA IS PART OF A SYNDICATE OF INTERNATIONAL CRIMINALS WITH SUBVERSIVE CONNECTIONS
SUBVERSIVE! WHY, YOU SHULLY DON'T MEAN...
WE KNOW THIS MUST SHOCK A RESPECTABLE ENTERTAINMENT MANAGER LIKE YOURSELF


BUT NOBODY'S WHAT THEY SEEM TO BE THESE DAYS
BEFORE THE WAR, YOU KNEW THE LEFTIES. YOU KNEW THE THUGS. THEN IT ALL CHANGED
GANGSTERS POSE AS BUSINESSMEN. COMMIES WORK IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT. HOMOSEXUALS PASS FOR SCHOOL TEACHERS
AND THAT CLIENT OF YOURS, PERKINS PRESTON
HE HAS A WHITE MAN'S FACE BUT A NEGRO'S SOUL. JUST TO SEDUCE OUR AMERICAN GIRLS INTO POPPING OPEN THEIR LITTLE COIN-PURSES
"YOU JUST CAN'T TELL ABOUT ANYBODY ANYMORE

YOU SEEM LIKE A MAN WHO CAN SEE THROUGH SUCH TRICKS, COLONEL
AND A MAN WHO KNOWS A FEW TRICKS HIMSELF.
THAT ACCENT OF YOURS, COLONEL, IS THAT TENNESSEE? IT PUTS ME IN MIND OF THAT KIDS SONG "BORN ON A MOUNTAINTOP IN TENNESSEE."
"...THE GREENEST STATE IN THE LAND OF FREE."
NO COLONEL
NO NEED FOR US TO FIGHT WE'VE FOUND WAYS AROUND THAT
I THINK WE ALL WANT TO KEEP THIS "THE LAND OF THE FREE" DON'T WE?
FREE FOR THOSE WHO ARE ADVANCED ENOUGH TO APPRE CIATE IT
OFFICER JONES!
MAKE HIM STOP! MAKE HIM STOP!


HE'S ASKING ME THINGS THAT I DON'T WANT TO SAY!
WHAT--?
SORRY, SIR. JUST DOING MY DUTY.
"YOUR "DUTY"?
EXIT
THAT'S RIGHT. THE DUTY OF EVERY "JUNIOR G-MAN"! AND NO YOUNG MAN DOES HIS DUTY BETTER THAN WHITEY BRIGHT!
GOSH! DO YOU MEAN IT, AGENT ANOLE?
AND DO I GET TO HELP YOU CATCH THOSE CRUMMY CROOKS NOW? DO I, AGENT ANOLE? DO I?
HA HA! WHY, SURE YOU DO, LITTLE MAN! SURE YOU DO!
BOY!
HE - HE CHANGED, OFFICER JONES!
EXIT.
YEAH. WHO HASN'T?

"DON'T LET THOSE LIZARD-MEN DECK..."
"...DECK..."
"...DECK-KIVE YOU, DR MIDNIGHT! THOSE CROPS ARE CONTROLLING THE RACKETEERS' MINDS!"
PUT YOUR COMICS DOWN NOW, PERKINS WE HAVE TO TALK.
MR JONES, SIR! AIN'T YOU THE COLONEL NO MORE?
NO
"YOUR DESCRIPTION OF YOUR "IDEAL MANAGER" HELPED ME GET US IN HERE.. BUT THEY'VE SEEN THROUGH IT NOW.
OH, LORD. WHAT KINDA FELLAS ARE THESE? WHAT CAN'T THEY DO?
THIS IS WHAT WE NEED, SIR! HEROES-- LIKE FLASH AND GREEN LANTERN AND DOCTOR--
NO 17
ALL
Comic
IT'D BE NICE IF THEY WERE REAL
BUT THEY ARE REAL, SIR! OR THEY WERE!
YOU KNOW, PERKINS, SOMETIMES I WONDER HOW YOU MANAGED TO PUT TOGETHER A SINGING CAREER
IT SAYS RIGHT HERE IT'S PUBLISHED WITH AN ARRANGEMENT OF THE REAL JUSTICE SOCIETY!
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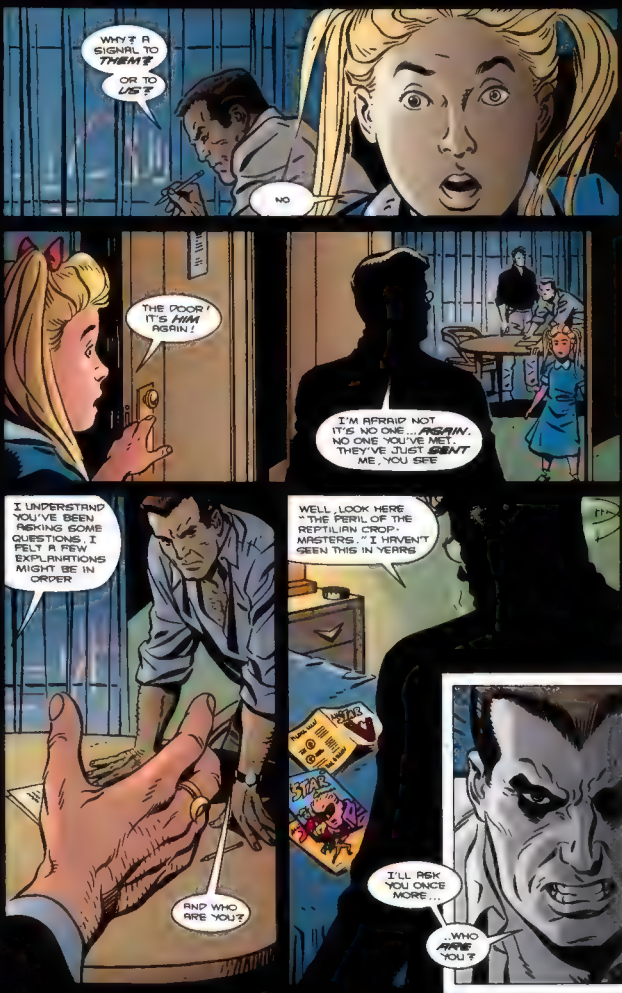
KEENE AGAIN
DO THEY STILL PUBLISH THESE, PERKINS?
NO, SIR NOT SINCE I WAS A STRIPLING
LIZARD-MEN AGAIN. CROPS HORTICULTURE
AND KEENE ALWAYS IN THE MIDDLE WITH HIS COMICS HIS SATIRES, HIS...
CANDY
BETO
E-Z RIP
"BETO E-Z RIP"
STRANGE PHRASES KEENE'S FULL OF THEM
PATTY! WHAT DID THE MYSTERIOUS CALLER TELL YOU TO SAY ON THE "BIG QUESTION"?
PRIZE-TO-BE
THE SAME LETTERS, THE SAME LETTERS.


WHY? A SIGNAL TO THEM? OR TO US?
NO
THE DOOR! IT'S HIM AGAIN!
I'M AFRAID NOT IT'S NO ONE... AGAIN. NO ONE YOU'VE MET. THEY'VE JUST SENT ME, YOU SEE
I UNDERSTAND YOU'VE BEEN ASKING SOME QUESTIONS. I FELT A FEW EXPLANATIONS MIGHT BE IN ORDER
AND WHO ARE YOU?
WELL, LOOK HERE "THE PERIL OF THE REPTILIAN CROP-MASTERS." I HAVEN'T SEEN THIS IN YEARS!
I'LL ASK YOU ONCE MORE...
..WHO ARE YOU?

FORGIVE ME, DETECTIVE. AN INCLINATION TO CHEAP SUSPENSE COMES NATURALLY TO MY SORT AFTER A WHILE.
I'M CHARLES McNIDER, PHYSICIAN, RETIRED. BUT THEY USED TO CALL ME DR. MIDNIGHT!

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